

public opinion. As Cato, then, concluded every speech with the words, "*Carthago delenda est*" so do I every opinion with the words, "Divide the Counties into wards." Begin then only for a single purpose; they will soon show for what others they are the best instruments. (To Jos. C. Cabell, 1816. C. VI.,

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TOWNSHIPS.—The article nearest my heart is the division of

Counties into wards (townships). These will be pure and elementary republics, compose the State, and will make of the whole a true Democracy as to the business of the wards, which is that of nearest and daily concern. The affairs of the larger sections, of Counties, of States, and of the Union, not admitting personal transaction by the people, will be delegated to agents elected by themselves; and representation will thus be substituted, where personal action becomes impracticable. Yet, even over these representative organs, should they become corrupt and perverted, the division into* wards, a regularly organized power, enables them by that organization to crush, regularly and peaceably, the usurpations of their unfaithful agents, and rescues them from the dreadful necessity of doing it in-surrectionally. In this way we shall be as republican as a large society can be; and secure the continuance of purity in our government, by the salutary, peaceable, and regular control of the people. (To Samuel Kercheval, 1816. C. VII., 35.)

TOWNSHIPS.—Divide the Counties into wards of such size as that every citizen can attend, when called on, and act in person. Ascribe to them the government of their wards in all things relating to themselves exclusively. A justice, chosen by themselves, in each, a constable, a military company, a patrol, a school, the care of their own poor, their own portion of the public roads, the choice of one or more jurors to serve in some court, and the delivery, within their wards, of their own votes for all elective officers of higher sphere, will relieve the County administration of nearly all its business, will have it better done, and by making every citizen an acting member of the government, and in the offices nearest and most interesting to him, will attach him by his strongest feelings to the independence